

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CURACA 00258 150809Z

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ACTION ARA-20

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P R 142050Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1829

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

INFO COMCARIBSEAFRON ROOS ROADS PR

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CURACAO 0258

E.O. 11652:1 GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, MARR, MCAP, NA

SUBJECT: FORTHCOMING VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER EVERTSZ TO

HOLLAND TO REQUEST THE DUTCH PRIME MINISTER THAT

ADDITIONAL DUTCH MARINES BE ASSIGNED TO THE NETHER-

LANDS ANTILLES

REF: CURACAO'S 254 AND PREVIOUS

1. AT THE RECEPTION FOR THE OPENING OF THE STATEC
(PARLIAMENT) TODAY (MAY 14), GOVERNOR B.M. LEITO ASKED
THAT I REQUEST THE USG TO PLEASE EXERCISE ALL POSSIBLE
INFLUENCE ON THE GON TO HELP THE GNA OBTAIN THE ASSIGNMANT
OF ABOUT 400 ADDITIONAL DUTCH MARINES FOR EXTERNAL DEFENSE
OF THE NA. GOVERNOR LEITO STATED THAT GNA PRIME MINISTER
EVERTSZ WAS LEAVING TODAY FOR HOLLACD TO MEET WITH DUTCH
PRIME MINISTER VAN UYL ON MAY 16 AND FORMALLY REQUEST THE
ADDITIONAL MARINES. GOVERNOR LEITO CLAIMED THAT IT WAS
NOW SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE, IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT CUTBACK
OF DUTCH MARINE FORCES, FOR THE NAVAL FORCES ON THE NA
TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE EXTERNAL SECURITY FOR THE TWO
GIANT OIL REFINERIES (SHELL ON CURACAO AND EXXON ON ARUBA).
HE ASKED THAT, IN THE LIGHT OF OBVIOUS US INTEREST IN
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PAGE 02 CURACA 00258 150809Z

MAINTAINING THE SECURITY AND THUS THE FLOW OF PETROLEUM

PRODUCTS FROM BOTH REFINERIES TO THE US, THAT THE USG BE REQUESTED TO EXERCISE ITS GOODWILL ON HOLLAND AND SUPPORT THE REQUEST OF THE GNA FOR ADDITIONAL MARINES TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY FOR THE REFINERIES. THE GOVERNOR CITED THE RECENT TERRORIST THREAT TO THE OIL REFINERY ON ARUBA AS A CONCRETE EXAMPLE THAT THE PRESENT LEVEL OF DUTCH MARINE FORCES SIMPLY WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT THE TWO HUGE REFINERIES ON A PROLONGED BASIS.

2. I ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION THE MATTER TO PRIME MINISTER EVERTSZ WHO ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSED THE GOVERNOR'S REQUEST AND STATED THAT HE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE ANYTHING THE US COULD DO TO INFLUENCE HOLLAND POSITIVELY IN THIS SERIOUS MATTER OF THE PROTECTION OF THE REFINERIES IN THE NA. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE TIME FACTOR WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE USG TO APPROACH THE GON ON THE MATTER BEFORE HIS FORTHCOMING DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER VAN UYL. HE ADDED HE WAS OF THE FIRM OPINION THAT ANY SUPPORT USG COULD GIVE WOULD BE BOTH MEANINGFUL AND HELPFUL IN MAKING HIS CASE WITH THE DUTCH.

3. COMMODORA HAMILTON, THE DUTCH NAVAL COMMANDER IN THE NA, ALSO COMPLETELY SUPPORTED THE REQUEST OF THE GNA FOR MORE DUTCH MARINES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE POINT MUST BE MADE TO THE GON THAT THE MARINE FORCES WOULD ONLY BE USED FOR EXTERNAL DEFENSE. IT WAS ESSENTIAL, HE ADDED, TO ENLARGE THE CURRENT DUTCH NAVAL FORCES BY ABOUT 400 ADDITIONAL MARINES SO THAT THEY COULD PERFORM THE MISSION OF THE PROTECTION OF THE REFINERIES.

4. I DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH MR. JAMES M. BALLENGER, PRESIDENT OF EXXON, ARUBA WHO FULLY ENDORSED THE GNA REQUEST. HE CONSIDERS SECURITY OF THE REFINERIES MOST VITAL IN THE LIGHT OF THE VAST SUPPLIES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS THAT THEY SUPPLY TO THE US IN THIS CRITICAL TIME OF ENERGY CRISIS.

ACTION REQUESTED: USG POLICY HAS BEEN AND IS TO KEEP THE GON INVOLVED IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY WITH BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID TO THE NA. (SEE CURACAO'S CURRENT ECD PREVIOUS CASP'S).
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 CURACA 00258 150809Z

IN THE LIGHT OF THIS POLICY: THE CONGEN FIRMLY RECOMMENDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT, EITHER THROUGH THE DUTCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND/OR THE EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE, STRONGLY SUPPORT THE REQUEST OF THE GNA TO THE GON IN THIS MATTER.

THE CONGEN WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF ANY ACTION.
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